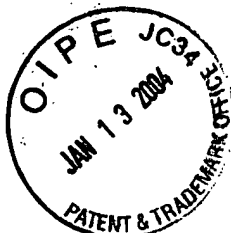


Image



Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Robert Greene Sterne  
Edward J. Kessler  
Jorge A. Goldstein  
David K.S. Cornwell  
Robert W. Esmond  
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Michele A. Cimbala  
Michael B. Ray  
Robert E. Sokohl  
Eric K. Steffe  
Michael Q. Lee  
Steven R. Ludwig  
John M. Covert  
Linda E. Alcorn  
Robert C. Milton  
Lawrence B. Bugaisky  
Donald J. Featherstone  
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim  
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.  
Patrick E. Garrett  
Heidi L. Kraus  
Edward W. Yee  
Albert L. Ferro  
Donald R. Banowitz  
Peter A. Jackman  
Molly A. McCall  
Teresa U. Medler  
Jeffrey S. Weaver  
Kendrick P. Patterson  
Vincent L. Capuano  
Eldora Ellison Floyd  
Thomas C. Fiala  
Brian J. Del Buono  
Virgil Lee Beaton  
Kimberly N. Reddick

Theodore A. Wood  
Elizabeth J. Haanes  
Joseph S. Ostroff  
Frank R. Cottingham  
Christine M. Uhliet  
Rae Lynn Pengaman  
Jane Shershenovich  
Lawrence J. Carroll  
George S. Bardmesser  
Daniel A. Klein  
Jason D. Eisenberg  
Michael D. Specht  
Andrea J. Kamage  
Tracy L. Muller  
LuAnne M. Yuricek  
John J. Figueroa  
Ann E. Summerfield  
Tiera S. Coston

Aric W. Ledford  
**Registered Patent Agents**  
Karen R. Markowicz  
Nancy J. Leith  
Helene C. Carlson  
Gaby L. Longworth  
Matthew J. Dowd  
Aaron L. Schwartz  
Mary B. Tung  
Katrina Y. Pei Quach  
Bryan L. Skelton  
Robert A. Schwartzman  
Timothy A. Doyle  
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa  
Teresa A. Colella  
Jeffrey S. Lundgren

Victoria S. Rutherford  
Eric D. Hayes

**Of Counsel**  
Kenneth C. Bass III  
Evan R. Smith

\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
•Practice Limited to  
Federal Agencies

January 13, 2004

**WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:**  
(202) 772-8645  
**INTERNET ADDRESS:**  
JASONE@SKGF.COM

**Art Unit 2851**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/981,992; Filed: October 19, 2001  
For: **Wafer Handling System for Use in Lithography Patterning**  
Inventors: del Puerto *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1857.0290000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 43,447

JDE/crf  
Enclosures

#217948.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

del Puerto et al.

Appl. No.: 09/981,992

Filed: October 19, 2001

For: **Wafer Handling System for Use  
in Lithography Patterning**

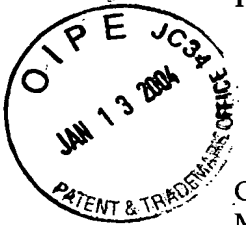
Confirmation No.: 7081

Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: Rodney Fuller

Atty. Docket: 1857.0290000

**Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**



Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **November 17, 2003**, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.